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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 121/76
9 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Preparations for Initial Carter Briefing

1. Today Mr. Lehman outlined plans for an initial intelligence briefing session for Gov. Carter, to be held shortly after the Democratic convention. The session may be held as early as Saturday, 17 July, at Plains, Georgia. The briefing session will last approximately five hours, plus time for a current intelligence review. The presentations will be made from a DCI point of view, i.e., reflecting intelligence community estimates, with individual agency views noted where relevant. From this point of view also, intelligence facts and appreciations rather than US policy considerations are appropriate.

2. The format will be across-the-table briefings, with as many page-size graphics as briefers consider helpful, a few large boards if considered necessary, and reference documents to show Gov. Carter if desired. The substance of the briefings will be all-source, but specific details about sensitive sources and methods will not be included.

3. Topics, times allotted for direct presentation, and briefers, are as follows:

a. Soviet internal politics, decisionmaking processes, and general foreign and defense policy. (45 minutes)

b. Soviet strategic forces. Stoertz (45 minutes)

c. SALT and SALT monitoring. (45 minutes)
(Hineman will attend as technical advisor for topics b and c above.)

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d. The Soviet economy. OER (30 minutes)
(Firth will attend as advisor on Soviet military spending.)

e. Soviet policy towards China and other Soviet foreign policy
issues. [redacted] 45 minutes)

4. An outline for topics b and c above is attached. Outlines for
other topics will be distributed shortly.

[redacted]
Howard Stwertz, Jr.

Attachment:
Outline as stated

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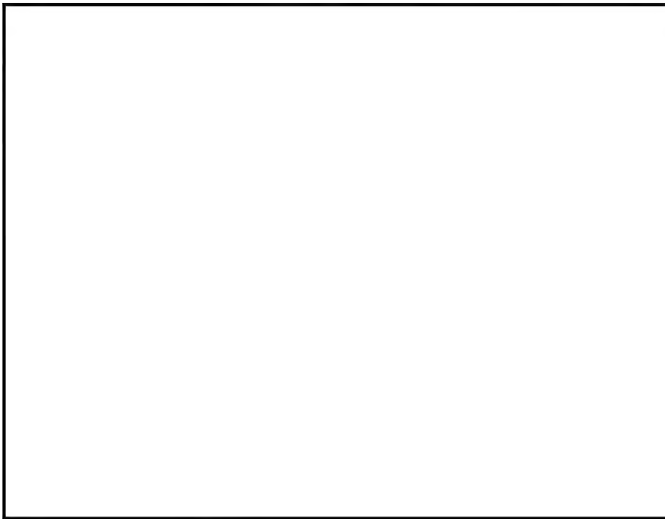
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OUTLINE FOR TOPICS B AND C OF CARTER BRIEFING

Topic B. Soviet Strategic Forces (45 minutes)

1. Community estimates--how prepared, who responsible, alternate views and dissents, distribution, uses.
2. Information base--samples of types of information, relative confidence in estimates of current situation vs. future projections vs. interpretation of Soviet motives.
3. Forces for intercontinental nuclear attack
 - a. Quantitative trends in ICBM, SLBM and bomber forces
 - b. Qualitative improvements in ICBMs and SLBMs
 - c. Projections with and without Vladivostok limits
 - d. Static measures of intercontinental forces
 - e. Threat to Minuteman silos
 - f. Threat to bombers on the ground
 - g. Cruise missile capabilities.
4. Forces for nuclear attack on Eurasian periphery--including the question of the capabilities and missions of a Backfire force.
5. Strategic defense forces
 - a. Ballistic missile warning and defense
 - b. Anti-satellite system
 - c. Air defense forces
 - d. Capabilities to defend against low altitude air attack (including SRAM)
 - e. Civil defense program
 - f. ASW program and its prospects for preventing missile launch by US SSBNs
 - g. Directed energy research programs.
6. Soviet objectives for strategic forces
 - a. Summary of developments of main concern to us
 - b. Soviet objectives
 - c. Emphasis on qualitative competition and advanced technology
 - d. The possibility that they seek strategic superiority
 - e. Our summary views on future strategic situation.

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Topic C. SALT and SALT Compliance Issues (45 minutes)

1. The effects of SALT ONE on Soviet ICBM programs
 - a. SS-9 force levels, ICBM modernization
 - b. SLBM trade-in provisions.
2. Monitoring SALT limitations
 - a. Need to count overt deployment and to guard against cheating
 - b. Areas of high confidence monitoring
 - c. Problem areas.
3. Compliance issues and their present status.
4. Soviet view of the strategic force balance
 - a. How it differs from US view
 - b. Problems it poses for negotiations.

Method of Preparation

The outline above has been agreed among Messrs. Lehman, Stoertz, [redacted] Hineman and [redacted]. It is, however, subject to adjustment as practical considerations dictate.

Draft briefing notes and graphics for these topics will be prepared by OSR and SALT Support Staff, with assistance from OWI and NPIC.

Target date for distribution of draft briefing notes to those named above will be COB Tuesday, 13 July, with the understanding that some materials may not be ready until Wednesday the 14th.

Assembly and distribution of final texts and graphics, after review and any necessary amendment, will be the responsibility of [redacted] of the NIO staff.

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